

Appl. No. : 10/601,305
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] Figure 3 shows that murine MrgB1 mRNA is specifically expressed in skin and spleen at birth. Newborn (P0) C57BL/6 (pigmented) mouse sections were hybridized with an mMrgB1 riboprobe.

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] Figure 4 illustrates expression of mMrgB1 mRNA is in relation to melanocyte specific markers. Newborn (P0) and one week old (P9) C57/BL/6 (pigmented) mouse sections were hybridized with mMrgB1, dopachrome tautomerase (DCT)/tyrosinase-related protein 2 and Mitf riboprobes.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Figure 5 illustrates that human MrgX2 mRNA is specifically expressed in melanoma cells. Total RNA (approximately 20 µg) from various human Wistar Melanoma (WM) cell lines was probed with hMrgX2. The Wistar Melanoma cell lines were isolated from melanomas at different stages of progression, including radial growth phase (RGP), vertical growth phase (VGP), and metastasis. WM1205Lu is the most highly aggressive and metastatic cell line in the Wistar collection.